
News & Updates

December 2024 | Volume 15 - Number 10

Upcoming Activities

December
Annual Drive

April
Annual Drive

May
Virtual Awareness
Walk



About Us
Spreading Hope
Through
Psychosocial
Support SM

[Learn](#)

Support
Help Make The
Miracles Possible

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CFC #59853

[Giving](#)

Making our Season Bright

We wish you a happy holiday season and the best of health and happiness in 2025. You play a vital role in our success and help to make the Mattie Miracles possible. We appreciate your continued contributions, your loyalty to the Foundation, and your commitment to our psychosocial mission. Thanks to you we celebrated our 15th anniversary and we remain the only national non-profit, dedicated to psychosocial awareness, advocacy, support, and research of childhood cancer.

Over the last 15 years, together we have:

1. Raised over \$1.7M to fund our psychosocial programs
2. Supported 38,000 children with cancer
3. Funded 6 [child life specialists](#)
4. Awarded \$185,000 in psychosocial innovative [research grants](#)
5. Published the first evidence based [Psychosocial Standards of Care](#)
6. Sponsored the publication of the [Matrix and Guidelines](#) to help implement the Psychosocial Standards of Care
7. Awarded 30 [M&M Wishes](#)
8. Funded 7 [Therapy Support Grants](#)
9. Delivered 26,000 snacks to in-patient families

**It's not just about
the medicine!™**



**15th Anniversary
Video**

10. Donated millions of pieces of candy and toiletry items to families
11. Introduced House Resolution 262
12. Added Psychosocial Language to the STAR Act (signed into law June 2018)

Please contribute to our Annual Drive. Your **tax-deductible donations** make the Mattie Miracles possible.

Click on the Present to Donate Now!



Spreading Hope Through Psychosocial Support.™



**Child Life Corner
with
Adina Levitan, CCLS**

Hope for the Holidays

Very often around this time of year, we hear the phrase, “I can’t wait to be home for the holidays,” or “we are going to be home for the holidays.” The holiday season is often centered around family, and family in the home together. **But for many families who have a child with cancer, it is not a given that they will get to be home for the holidays.** The winter months often present increased risk for illness, resulting in hospitalization or chemo induction may be inconveniently scheduled around the holidays. Many of the families that I work with sometimes feel as if they are jinxed to be in the hospital over the holidays, whether that was when their child was diagnosed, or they are constantly in the hospital during the holiday season. **The challenge of being in the hospital over the holidays is manifold.** Parents must balance the needs of other children, while ensuring that their child in the hospital is not feeling left out. **There is the added stress of financial burden**

while trying to bring the magic of the holiday to the whole family.

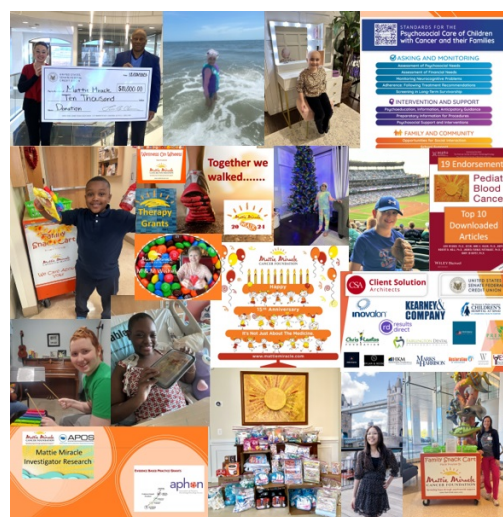
On the flipside, **there are families who may be fearful about leaving the hospital setting for the holidays**, which presents many conflicting feelings about how to celebrate and where to celebrate. **Since the treatment team is fully trained in how to treat their child should there be any unexpected illnesses, families often rely on the team and may feel at a loss if they must go home for the holidays.** There are so many conflicting feelings at play when families are trying to determine the best way to celebrate. Should they visit with other family, or should they just stay at home to protect their child from exposure to other illnesses? As any illness may result in their child heading back to the hospital for the holidays. It is a constant juggling act of balancing normalcy with the awareness of their child's condition.

This is where the role of child life is incredibly crucial to families in the hospital. **Many child life programs offer a holiday store where parents can “shop” for their child at no cost from a vast selection of items provided by generous donors.** This gives a sense of the holiday spirit and holiday magic and lightens the burden of parents who may be struggling financially due to their child's illness. Child life specialists seek to learn about each family's special traditions and bring those traditions into the hospital room. We also find ways to facilitate families who want to visit in the hospital, setting aside offices, the playroom, or opening up empty patient rooms so that there is space to accommodate all the family who want to visit. **Child life specialists find ways to bring the magic of the holidays to families and provide opportunities to build memories and instill hope.**

Highlights of 2024

As 2024 draws to a close, we reflect on **this year's highlights and accomplishments.** Together, with your support, we have made many Mattie Miracles possible:

1. Endowed the Mattie Miracle **Child Life Program Fund**, by committing \$149,000 to continue the program through 2024.
2. Funded **innovative research grants**, totaling \$15,000 to fund research that produces clinical tools and models that enable the implementation of the Psychosocial Standards of Care at treatment sites around the country.
3. Launched a **non-profit research partnership** with The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation and Momcology. We are grateful to the B+ Foundation for their \$115,000 grant to conduct innovative implementation research with the Psychosocial Standards of Care.
4. Operated the Mattie Miracle **Free Snack & Item Carts** for in-patient pediatric families at the MedStar Georgetown University Hospital (Washington, DC), at Children's Hospital at Sinai (Baltimore, MD), and at The National Institutes of Health's Clinical Center (Bethesda, MD). These carts serviced over 2,500 families this year.
5. Featured speaker at a webinar hosted by



the US Senate Federal Credit Union entitled, **The Impact of Non-Profits.**

6. Held the virtual **15th Annual Walk**, generating \$89,000, with walkers from 29 states.
7. Awarded **17 M&M Wishes**, ranging from \$300 to \$2,000. These grants support a fun family activity, trip, or a wish list item for a child with cancer.
8. Funded **5 therapy support grants** for children with cancer. Each \$1,000 grant covered the cost of psychological services within the community.
9. Coordinated **two annual community item drives** (candy, snacks, and toiletries) to help stock our hospital Snack & Item carts.



We Love Our Supporters

Thank you for standing behind our mission to assist children with cancer and their families for 15 years.

Please make a **tax-deductible contribution** today. Your contribution will help us meet the psychosocial needs of children with cancer and their families, as well as implement the Psychosocial Standards of Care, so that every child with cancer has access to optimal psychological and social support.

Best wishes this holiday season and THANK YOU for your continued support!



Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation
is a GuideStar PLATINUM
Participant Charity



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